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LB 692

SENATOR HILGERT: Well, thank you very much, Senator Bromm. And Senator Vrtiska and Senator Stuhr, I think that this is a wonderful amendment and, frankly, this is something I think our Legislature should look at very closely and monitor, to make sure that our regions are working properly. I know Senator Vrtiska, being an old county official, is bringing his expertise to the floor as well on this, and I appreciate that. I just ask the body to support this amendment, and thank you, Senators, for bringing this forward.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. Senator Byars, on the Bromm amendment.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Just so there aren't any questions, that part of the amendment that starts with line 10 and 11 is a change in...we had original language on how the waiting list of developmental disability money was to be distributed. It was not as clear as we wanted, and so we have changed that language just very slightly to make sure the money would be distributed as we wished originally. Just so there are no questions. Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. As one who has carried mental health bills for the past 11 years, I do have a keen interest in this bill. I did have a bill that was heard at the same time this bill was being compiled. It was one to enable mental health facilities' programs and services to be able to apply for grants from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund. Well, that bill was killed in committee, and rightfully so, because as Senator Jensen and his staff had assured me, that the bill now does give money, \$7 million and some, to behavioral health services to community-based services. And I do support that. I thank everybody that's worked on this bill, particularly Senator Byars who is carrying the bill, all the amendments that make this a great, wonderful piece of legislation for our state and our handicapped individuals. And Senator Jensen I'd like to thank personally for understanding and learning about mental health.